Environment clearance of constructions in Sabarimala

223. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is pending with Government seeking environmental clearance for the projects of constructions or retaining walls, queue complexes, parking facilities, latrine blocks etc. in Sabarimala;

(b) whether Government accorded clearance for the project; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):(a) The Central Government has received six proposals only for diversion of forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for construction of irrigation components in Pampa and Kakki rivers, retaining walls, latrine* blocks, bath rooms, Sewage Treatment Plant, resting place, pathway, etc. in Sabarimala.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Out of these six proposals, information in respect of the project relating to the irrigation components in Pampa and Kakki rivers is incomplete. For the remaining five proposals, the State Government has not obtained prior permission of the National Board of Wildlife and the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India for diversion of forest land for these projects as the forest land to be diverted falls in the Periyar Tiger Reserve.

Environment clearance to development Projects

224. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to formulate a new procedure for granting environment clearance to development projects;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some of the States are opposed to these reforms;

(c) if so, the details of objections of these individual States; and